

# BLUE GRASS BLADE

EDITED BY A HEATHEN IN THE INTEREST OF GOOD MORALS.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY. ONE DOLLAR A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

VOLUME XIV. NUMBER 39

A. T. Parker  
High and Ashland East Side  
Sept 105

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1905.

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR IN ADVANCE



Charles L. Moore  
Editor



## TERMS OF THE BLADE

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152 W. Short

Lexington, Ky.

Entered at the post office at Lexing-  
ton, Ky., as Second Class Mail Mat-  
ter.

Address all communication to BLUE  
GRASS BLADE, P. O. BOX 393,  
Lexington, Kentucky.

Fayette Telephone, 619.  
Cumberland Telephone, 307.

## A PLAIN PROPOSITION.

If a merchant sells a Diamond,  
Watch of Jewelry for \$120 which  
costs him \$100 he don't make a cent  
because, rent, interest on capital in-  
vested, salaries, out-of-date stock, etc.,  
etc., consumes this 20 per cent. There-  
fore, to live and accumulate wealth,  
he must add 30 to 40 per cent. to the  
first cost of the goods he sells.

Having disposed of my store I now  
act simply in the capacity of your  
Purchasing Agent, giving you the  
benefit of my 40 years' experience and  
positively saving you the 20 per cent.  
it costs a merchant to do business.  
When I receive your order for Dia-  
monds, Watches, or any other goods  
in the Jewelry line, I select from all  
the biggest stocks in Chicago, pay  
cash, get all special discounts, and  
usually ship goods same day. This  
is why I can undersell all merchants  
20 per cent. and yet make usual profit.  
Ingersoll Spoons and Freethought  
Charms and Pins. Send for prices  
and my great little tract, "Theism in  
the Crucible" free.

OTTO WETTSTEIN,  
LaGrange, Cook Co., Ill.

Chaplain Starr of the Ohio State  
penitentiary furnishes the Ohio State  
Journal some interesting statistics re-  
lative to the church affiliations of the  
prisoners. Of the 1553 inmates of the  
prison 422 are Methodists, 391 Catho-  
lics, 250 Baptists, 15 Jews, 12 Dun-  
kards, 9 Friends, others "scattering,"  
and 27 who claim no church affilia-  
tions. No avowed Atheist or Free-  
thinker is reported. Ohio Christians  
have cause to point with pride to their  
penitentiary. If that state is like  
the rest of the country, church mem-  
bers do not comprise more than about  
three-eighths of its population at large,  
but in the penitentiary they include  
1526 out of 1553. We hesitate to draw  
any conclusions from these figures;  
they might not be just; for if the sta-  
tistics show anything, they prove that  
a church member is forty or more  
times as likely to get into jail as a  
man without denominational prefer-  
ence.—Truth Seeker.

## JUDGE LADD

COMMENTS ON THE McCORMACK  
—WILSON CONTROVERSY.

Alameda, November 30, 1905.

Dr. J. B. Wilson,

Dear friend—In the Blade of Nov.  
19, handed me by Albert Johnson ap-  
pears a long article, by you, in an-  
swer to one by G. W. McCormack, on  
the sayings and doings of one Jesus  
Christ. From some side lights in your  
article, it is quite apparent that, like  
myself, you do not believe in the  
personality of such a man; but for the  
purpose of answer, you seem to as-  
sume his personality, and then go into  
argument to show he was not what he  
is assumed to be. Like myself again,  
you are quite outspoken in all your  
writings. Now is it not better in all  
cases to stand by the evidence, and  
under all circumstances unequivocally  
deny the existence of such a man and  
drop the matter there. That no such  
a man ever existed, the evidence is  
overwhelming. I have spent a great  
amount of time in the investigation of  
this matter; having access to two of  
our largest San Francisco libraries,  
leaving nothing untouched as proof in  
the premises. Several long articles  
I have written on this question, one  
some time ago in Green's Freethought  
magazine.

As to the fourteen letters ascribed  
to Paul, they too are forgeries, writ-  
ten in Asia Minor about the begin-  
ning of the third century.

In my numerous writings on this  
matter, I have gone into all the cir-  
cumstances of a negative character,  
as well as the Roman law, to show  
that the man was impossible.

Now it seems to me that Freethink-  
ers should boldly take ground and  
deny most positively the existence of  
the alleged Christ, and call for proof to  
the contrary, not one line of which  
can be produced: If necessary let us  
offer our proof. By this proven we  
shall have a short road to travel to  
refute all that is claimed for the man  
Christ. This puts the church, its  
Christians and some Freethinkers on  
the defensive and in a case where they  
must inevitably fail.—PARRISH B.  
LADD.

## DR. J. B. WILSON COMMENTS ON LETTER OF JUDGE LADD.

I heartily agree with Judge Ladd,  
and never refer to Christ, without the  
reservation—"if such man existed;"  
for I do not believe such a person ever  
lived. There is nothing more certain  
than that the Virgin Mary is a myth,  
and myths don't propagate flesh. The  
great trouble with so many Freethink-  
ers is that they are not up on Phallic  
and Solar symbolism. Another great  
misfortune is that we have no books  
on these subjects, which are of a  
price to be reached. Those books we  
have are too high-priced, and besides,  
they are ponderous, hard for the be-  
ginner to understand and poorly illus-  
trated.

What Freethought most needs right  
now are books on these two subjects  
which could be sold for 25 cents each.  
They should be so plainly expressed  
that a child could understand them.  
In fact, these subjects are the very  
primers of Science and Theology.  
Most men and women, are only grown  
up children, and instruction by primer  
is the thing needed. The trouble with  
a great many of us Freethinkers is  
that we want to appear too learned  
—too almighty wise. It is all right  
for our own entertainment, but for  
propagandic effect, thought must not  
be made too heavy. The first dozen  
lines often chills, and the reader pas-  
ses on to something else. The charm  
of Ingersoll was, that he kept you  
looking forward to something ahead  
that would interest. He had the facul-  
ty of creating expectancy.

A great many of our best books lack  
this, and the Christian and even the  
Freethinker won't read them. Now  
this is the trouble largely with all the  
books on Phallic and Solar Worship.  
You have to wade through an im-  
mense lot of unnecessary reading to  
get the meat of the subjects, and the  
unnecessary reading bewilders and  
confuses. And the reader, in the end,  
is all mixed up on the subject. A lot  
may be gleaned from Rev. Robt. Tay-

lor; but there is no method of instruc-  
tion, and his information is all a  
mashed up jumble of complexities,  
that only the few can understand.

I do not know whether or not I am  
capable of presenting these subjects,  
so they would interest, and be easily  
comprehended; but it is one of the  
aims of my life to do so. The strug-  
gle for existence is so great, however,  
that it looks as though I will never  
be able to accomplish it. If I do not,  
I will go to my grave disappointed,  
for I believe I can do more good in  
this direction than in any other.

The Christ myth is so thoroughly  
planted in the human mind, that mere  
denial or doubt of his existence will  
never eradicate it. We may say to  
the Christian—"You can't prove that  
Christ ever lived." He will reply:  
"You can't prove that he didn't live."  
So there you are, and you may argue  
till dooms day. But, by a proper pre-  
sentation of Phallic and Solar Wor-  
ship, beginning right down at the  
bottom, treating it as a Nature Study;  
why, there is nothing could be made  
so convincing, thrilling and charming.  
People of all classes have a penchant,  
a curiosity for sex information. Even  
in the Bible, the nude Eve, and the  
angels in abbreviated gowns are pic-  
tures of sex significance. Try as our  
Postoffice department may, it is a sub-  
ject that won't be downed, and is for-  
ever coming to the surface even in il-  
lustrated Bibles. It is the primal law  
of existence, Nature's supreme im-  
pulse, and upon this primal law of  
being, all religion, Science and myth  
are based. No one can understand  
the Christ myth unless he under-  
stand Phallic and Solar worship, and  
the reason so many Liberals accept  
the story of Christ's real existence, is  
because they are not informed on the  
origin of the Christian myth. They  
say: "It is just so reasonable to be-  
lieve that Christ existed as any one  
else of his time or previous to his  
time, which is a very narrow view of  
the situation. If you ask these same  
Liberals if they believe that Jove,  
Jupiter, Apollo and other gods and  
goddesses existed, they will say "No,"  
yet the evidence of their existence is  
just as valid.

Christ left not even a scratch of a  
pen as proof of his having existed.  
In the British Museum, I read on the  
Creation Tablets the letters of the  
kings of Persia, their proclamations,  
etc., made 12000 years ago, or 6000  
years before the beginning of the  
world, (according to the Bible). These  
letters are on stone and of as perfect  
print as the type of this paper. There  
they are to prove the existence of  
those people 12000 years ago, but not  
a line or letter has been left to prove  
the existence of this Christ who, we  
are told, lived only 1900 years ago.  
(See "A Trip to Rome").

I saw in the Museum of Naples,  
some of the writings of Epicurus and  
Pliny, who lived before Christ. Here  
is absolute proof of the existence of  
these men. What have we of Christ  
but tradition, and what is such tradi-  
tion worth, when we have the same  
tradition of other Saviors? Show me  
a Savior of Man, the world over,  
whose identity can be established up-  
on any other foundation than tradi-  
tion. Strange is it not, that all the  
gods have left no more tangible re-  
cords of their existence, than the  
mouthings of ignorant, fanatical peo-  
ple. What written or engraved testi-  
mony have we of the reliable contem-  
porary testimony of the existence of  
Jesus Christ.

The nearest is the few lines of To-  
pophis, which all the theologians admit  
to be an interpolation and forgery.  
Next is the nite of a mention of Livy  
and this, theologians admit to be a for-  
gery.

Why, I have had people even ask me  
after expressing doubt of the exist-  
ence of Christ, if I believed George  
Washington existed, and demand that  
I prove it, declaring that since I had  
not seen him, nor any one else who  
had seen him, I could not swear that  
he existed. Such argument does not  
need to be controverted. It only shows  
the stupidity of the average mind.

The weakness of the Christian argu-  
ment is shown in the ridiculous posi-  
tion that this all-wise God permitted  
himself to get in, who, knowing that  
future generations would question his  
existence, left absolutely no reliable  
or authentic record of himself. If  
this all-wise God, in coming to earth  
to establish a government over na-  
tions remote and unborn, had had a  
proper business regard for a perma-  
nent reverence by mankind, he would  
have utilized the best means then  
existing of transmitting an authentic  
record of himself. He would, at least  
have been as wise as the ancient

Egyptian and Babylonian king. Such  
short-sightedness in a God was fatal  
to his future power over men. Since  
he took no means to present disputa-  
tion of his existence, he could not ex-  
pect otherwise than that his teachings  
would be disputed.

Suppose I would start out likewise  
to-day, announcing that I was the Sav-  
ior of all living, and of the unborn to  
the end of the world, and left no re-  
cord of my existence but tradition,  
what would be your opinion of me as  
a God? What would be the opinion of  
future generations? Why, you and  
they would say, "Wilson was the big-  
gest rascal-convop of a God, you ever  
run across." Yet the situation is iden-  
tical. There are Liberals who read  
this, would say the same of me, but  
who still believe in the existence of  
Jesus Christ. This is because they  
were taught the belief in child-hood.  
They know they have no more evi-  
dence of his existence than of Apollo,  
still they believe that Jesus lived and  
that Apollo didn't. "Oh! Oppollo be-  
longs to mythology," they say. If a  
Ghost was the father of Jesus, what  
did he belong to? Is a Ghost less my-  
thical than Jupiter or Jove?

The best way to get this twist out  
of your brains, is to get deep into  
Phallic and Solar mysticism, and you  
will soon see, not only through this,  
but all other Bible myths, as through  
a clear window pane.

Hughes used to print every year a  
solar exposition of Christmas written  
by me. I believe it has done more  
good than everything else I have ever  
written. I get inquiries for it yet, and  
people say, nothing ever opened their  
eyes like that. I believe that a popu-  
lar and easily understood exposition  
of these subjects, will achieve more  
in breaking up the Christian myth,  
even than all the labor of Ingersoll.  
Ingersoll treated Jesus as a verity.  
There he made a great mistake. He  
had the public ear, a hard thing for a  
Rationalist to get, and while having  
the public ear, he ought to have put  
Christianity on the defensive, pushed  
Christians right to the wall, and made  
them prove their Christ and Savior.

Oh! what an opportunity he had  
there, but he failed to grasp it. Can't  
you all now see that Judge Ladd is  
right, that we should declare and keep  
declaring that there was no Jesus,  
until we put the clergy in the position  
of defending his identity. That God  
is a goner as soon as his existence has  
to be defended. Ingersoll by his ad-  
mission of the existence of Christ, as  
a man in fact, assisted in establishing  
his position as a God.

You don't catch Old Man Ladd and  
Yours Truly in a trap like that.

Until Christians prove beyond a  
doubt that their Savior existed, I can-  
not see that it is incumbent on us, or  
even wise on our part to admit that  
he existed. I agree with Judge Ladd,  
that we should stand by the evidence  
as the best weapons now at our com-  
mand is to put Christians on the de-  
fensive of this point. His letter is  
worth reading carefully the second  
time.

J. B. W.  
P. S.—For some rich information on  
Phallic Worship, see chapter on Pom-  
peii, in "A Trip to Rome."

## THE CULTURIST.

Steps Forward and Takes a Com-  
manding Place in the Freethought  
Household.

Here is The Culturist at last—hall  
and good speed! Born at the blessed  
Christmas-tide, it comes to you like  
the Babe of Bethlehem, and all the  
Wise Men of the East (and of the  
West and North and South, too, for  
that matter) will bring presents—  
that is to say, their subscription. Let  
it be seen that you are a "wise one."

The Culturist is a crackerjack—you  
can take my word for it, and I think I  
know when I see it—and I want you  
to see it and know a good thing.

It is a very handsome periodical.  
The paper is excellent, the printing is  
fine, and the colored cover is a cork-  
er.

Blade readers will find several old  
friends in this first number, and many  
more in numbers to follow. The most  
notable name in this initial issue  
"Punishment and Function." I helped  
in my own humble way, having an ar-  
ticle on "Freethought the Essential of  
All Progress," which perhaps is the  
best thing of the kind I have ever writ-  
ten. Walter Hurt is unique. He is stro  
to read it and then tell me what you  
think about it.

Also, there is a breezy sketch of my-  
self, written by Hurt in his charac-  
teristic way, which I wish all my  
friends to see.

What shall I say about the rest of it?  
Walter Hurt is unique. He is strong

## CHRISTIAN COMMANDMENTS UP TO DATE

HARRIET M. CLOSZ.

Thou shalt have no other God than the one which money and  
church influence places upon the throne.

Thou shalt not bow down to any image, except it be one wear-  
ing ecclesiastical petticoats, and marked with the \$ seal. For I,  
the Modern God, am a jealous God, conferring office and influence  
only upon those who serve me faithfully and pay assessments, even  
unto the third and fourth generations.

Thou shalt not utter the name of thy Mighty God with irrever-  
ence or complaining else the terrible fate of the starving workers  
here, and a sentence to Hell hereafter shall be thy portion.

Remember the Sabbath day, to the end that all the poor and  
sick and distressed may be prevented the enjoyment of leisure, that  
they may be herded into the churches to be taught humanity and  
subjection, and to hear of the philanthropic exploits of the despoil-  
ers of virtue and substance.

Be obsequious to thy Earthy Master and Spiritual Ruler, for  
it is not decreed that the common masses shall aspire "to Him that  
hath not shall be taken away even that he hath."

Thou shalt not kill without the sanction of ruler or priest, but  
with it thou mayest make wholesale slaughter at thine own fireside  
or in foreign fields.

Thou shalt not commit adultery, unless belonging to the chosen,  
then thou mayest conceal it and shift the responsibility of thy fruit-  
fulness upon unsuspecting victims.

Thou shalt not steal a paltry sum, but thou mayest loot de-  
fenseless heathens, embezzle workmen's savings, corner produce  
markets, compel excessive schedules or dispose of unreal values and  
yet, sit high in the sanctuary and administrative councils.

Thou shalt not bear false witness, unless "the glory of God  
aboundeth more through thy lie," and unless churchy prestige be  
enhanced and financial benefits accrue to the powers that be.

Thou shalt not covet that which is thy neighbors, but thou  
mayest take over unto thyself his hard earned belongings or his  
"one ewe lamb," so that covetousness may not dwell in thy heart.

Thou shalt pray loud and fervently for forgiveness for any in-  
advertent kindness toward thy fellows, and such kind deed shall be  
forgiven thee so long as thou contributest liberally to God's priestly  
satellites.

Webster City, Iowa.

and masterful as a writer, thinker,  
reasoner. Superstition must give way  
before the impetuous onslaught of his  
inexorable logic. As an epigram-  
matist he is equal to Elbert Hubbard  
at his best. By turns he is eloquent,  
witty, satirical, argumentative, analyt-  
ic, pathetic, poetic. He is a wizard of  
words who alternately play upon the  
human emotions and appeals to hu-  
man reason. He is doing the best  
work of his life for The Culturist,  
and none who reads it will be disap-  
pointed.

You should read Hurt's article on  
"The Philosophy of Optimism." It will  
help to make you happy. A Brother  
Moore wants you to be. Among his  
other articles is a fine and forceful  
one on "The Obsolescence of the  
Church," for which he uses as a text  
a letter written to the Blade by Judge  
Parrish B. Ladd. Another one is "Lib-  
eralism," which should be read by  
every Freethinker who really cares to  
be broad.

There are several departments by  
Hurt, among which is "Rational Re-  
flection," consisting of brilliant Free-  
thought epigrams that will appeal to  
all. Another department that I pre-  
dict will make a decided hit, is "Ray-  
marks by R. R. R.," being Freethought  
philosophy and wit done into Irish dia-  
lect.

This is only a hint of the many  
good things The Culturist contains.  
On second thought, I don't want you  
to take my word for it—get a copy of  
the magazine and see for yourself.

Among the well-known Freethinkers  
who will write for future issues of The  
Culturist are Mrs. Josephine K. Hen-  
ry, Mrs. Harriet M. Closz, George  
Jacob Holyoake, President British Se-  
cular League; Charles Watts and Jo-  
seph McCabe, of London, England; Dr.  
Paul Carus, Prof. Edgar L. Larkin,  
Director Lowe Observatory; Judge  
Parrish B. Ladd, Edmund Vance  
Cooke, Otto Wettstein, Dr. Raley  
Husted Bell, Dr. James Weir, Jr., au-  
thor of "The First Abstract Religion,"  
"Religion and Lust," etc.; Hon. Moses  
Kaufman, W. F. Jamieson, Singleton  
W. Davis, editor "The Humanitarian  
Review;" M. M. Hangasarian, editor  
"Liberal Review," and J. T. Patch. I  
shall myself write regularly for The  
Culturist.

And now comes an announcement  
that will cheer the heart of every  
Blade reader. Editor Hurt is prepar-  
ing a biographical sketch of Charlie  
Moore, entitled "Freethought's Most  
Picturesque Personality," in which  
the old lion will be written up as  
never before. Accompanying each  
copy of The Culturist containing this  
sketch will be a supplement in the  
form of a large and fine halftone vi-  
gnette portrait of Bro. Moore, 10 1/2 by  
13 1/2 inches, printed on heavy enameled  
paper and suitable for framing. It  
is planned to make these sketches and

portraits a permanent feature of The  
Culturist, each month presenting the  
life and likeness of some Liberal edi-  
tor or prominent writer or lecturer.  
The first to appear will be our beloved  
Mrs. Henry. I know all the men will  
be gallant enough to willingly stand  
aside in her favor.

I wish to say to all my friends, and  
to all Freethinkers that I regard The  
Culturist as well worthy our best  
recognition and most loyal support. I  
want to see the name of every Blade  
reader on The Culturist's subscrip-  
tion list, and I want to see it right away.  
You can't afford to miss it. The maga-  
zine starts bright and right, so let  
us all lend a hand to keep it that  
way. All you are asked to do is to  
subscribe, and get other subscribers if  
you can.

I want to say right here that I am  
proud of The Culturist and all Free-  
thought should be proud of it. I am  
proud that I was one of the first to  
help it along—in fact, to help make it  
possible—that I was instrumental in  
organizing a stock company to bring  
it into being. I am proud and glad,  
for it represents our cause right  
worthily and well.

I want you all to see this first num-  
ber, but as the chances are the de-  
mand for it will be very heavy, to be  
sure of getting it you had better send  
for it at once, before the supply is ex-  
hausted. Send 10 cents for one copy,  
or \$1.00 for a year's subscription. Send  
without delay, everybody, and start  
The Culturist off with a rush.

J. B. WILSON.

My new pamphlet "Marriage and  
Divorce" will come from press Decem-  
ber 12th. All orders for same prompt-  
ly filled after that date. Price 25 cts.  
a copy; 5 copies for \$1.00. Send all  
orders to JOSEPHINE K. HENRY,  
Versailles, Kentucky.

A theological archeological associa-  
tion is proposed to exhume Cain's  
wife's grave, to find out how she hap-  
pened to be on earth before she had  
any parents.

What an ignorant lot the worship-  
pers of Allah must be to keep up so  
many heathen temples and priests!  
It is so much easier to see the fault of  
others than those who have been raised  
up under.

Science is knocking the stuffin' out  
of the old theological ideas. But then  
religion never was anything but a  
good joke on the credulous.

My new pamphlet "Marriage and  
Divorce" will come from press Decem-  
ber 12th. All orders for same prompt-  
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